From: cww@westling.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/7/01 9:55am
Subject: One small voice

I would like to strongly protest the proposed settlement with Microsoft.
It does not go far enough to substantially change the competitive landscape
and in effect, cedes a continuing monopoly to Microsoft. Several things
would have to be addressed to have a meaningful effect for those of us
who have to try to make a living with alternatives.

Preload agreements which force any computer buyer to accept a copy
of Windows whether they want it or not must be abolished.

Microsoft File formats must be added to the disclosure of APIs to allow
competitive products to interoperate and compete.

Pricing must be decoupled from exclusivity agreements, on paper or
implicit. Pricing should be the same for everybody and a line item.
not buried into the price of a computer.

As for remedies, There is an easy solution that would accomplish many
goals and remove the burden of enforcement. It would avoid all the
evasive and delaying manoevers and put MS in the position of wanting
to be good citizens.

The US government should simply remove Microsoft from the approved
vendors list and leave it off until behavior is acceptable. Not only
would this send the right message, it would directly impact the
competition issues by providing an opportunity for the suppressed
competitors to recover. I suggest that Open Source software be a
component to preclude any corporation from achieving monopoly status
again. This is far more rational and pragmatic than suing MS on the
one hand and being their largest customer (hidden by contractors)
on the other

I don't suppose one computer guy is very important, but I have lived
the computer industry for 30 years of so and qualify as an expert.

Regards

cww

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